Amendments to the Drawings

Please substitute new figures 1-14 for original figures 1-14. No significant changes have been made in the new figures. No new matter is added.

Remarks

The above new amendments add no new matter and support for all added limitations can be found in the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

New corrected drawings are enclosed. These new drawings contain no substantive changes and add no new matter but correct the formal objections raised by the Examiner. It should be pointed out that Figures 5-13 are photomicrographs.

The Examiner maintains that Claim 8 fails to further restrict Claim 2 as required by 35 U.S.C. 112. The applicants respectfully disagree. Once it is stated that the tube acts as a guide it is clear to one skilled in the art that additional limitations are inherent, e.g. that the tube must be of a diameter close to the diameter of the extruded film. A tube having a large diameter relative to the extruded film clearly cannot act as a guide, e.g. a tubular tank or a large spin tube 10 relative to the diameter of the extrusion as e.g. as disclosed by Blades et al.. Nevertheless specific tube diameter limitations have been added to Claim 8 as found on page 7 of the original specification. The rejection should be withdrawn.

The formal objection to Claim 10 has been overcome by amendment.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,939,235 to Harvey et al. This rejection is clearly inappropriate and should be withdrawn.

At the outset, it should be pointed out that Claim 1 has previously been cancelled and thus cannot form a part of any rejection.

Harvey et al. discloses or suggests nothing remotely resembling the tubular member forming a critical part of the present apparatus claims. It should be pointed out that Harvey et al. in column 6 refers to conventional blowing equipment 38 but there is no item 38 in Figure 5 or any other figure. What is intended by "conventional blowing equipment " is thus ambiguous and certainly suggests no particular structure. If the Examiner is referring to the lines of Figure 5 extending from item 36 to the top of the fluid in Figure 5, it is hard to tell what the lines are and their function or structure is not defined. They could be some sort of flat walls perpendicular to the plane of the paper or liquid level sensors or some sort of screen structure or an open walled partial tubular arrangement or many other possibilities. They thus anticipate nothing since a person reading the patent or looking at the drawings can only speculate but not know what they represent. **What they are not is " a tubular member arranged in the precipitation bath from a top surface of the precipitation means to the draw means".**

Harvey et al. thus cannot anticipate the present claims, nor for that matter render the claims obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, since Harvey et al. discloses no structure that could in any way suggest a tubular member as required by the present claims that acts as a guide and protection for the blown tubular material.

This 35 U.S.C. 102 rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has also rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,778,205 to Turner et al.

Again Claim1 has already been withdrawn and can form no part of any rejection.

Turner et al. clearly does not anticipate the presently claimed invention. The present claims require 1) a precipitation bath container and 2) a tubular member within the precipitation bath container surrounded by and containing precipitation means, where the tubular member is arranged in the precipitation bath from a top surface of the precipitation means to the draw means and is arranged for receiving the extruded blown tubular film. Turner et al cannot disclose both a precipitation bath container and a tubular member within it since item 15 clearly cannot be both. Turner et al. discloses no structure that could in any way be considered to be or suggest the combined precipitation bath container and tubular member contained within it for protecting and guiding the extruded blown tubular material through a liquid bath. Turner et al does not even disclose a container reasonably suited for a liquid precipitating bath since the reference refers to a volatile spray for cooling, not for containing a liquid for precipitating.

The rejection is clearly improper and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has also rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,750,873 to Loe et al. Again this rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Loe et al is not even related to the present invention since no means for blowing the extruded solution into ~~a~~ an extruded blown cellulose film, as required by all pending claims, is disclosed or suggested by Loe et al. Loe et al. further does not disclose or suggest a precipitation bath container. In Loe et al., liquid would clearly leak along the tubular member at its exit at the open bottom of "jacket 4" contrary to the present invention. Additionally Loe et al. clearly does not disclose or suggest "a tubular member arranged in the precipitation bath from a top surface of the precipitation means to the draw means" as required by the present claims.

The rejection is clearly improper and should be withdrawn.

Finally, the Examiner has rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,725,519 to Seifried et al. Again this rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

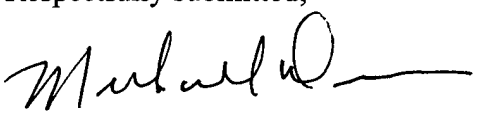
The Examiner seems to be completely confused with respect to this reference as it refers to blown "thermoplastic film that is simply "cooled" after blowing. There is no "precipitation" at all and no structure that could be used for such a purpose. There is no "precipitation bath container" and certainly not one having a closed bottom and there is no "tubular member within the precipitation bath container surrounded by and containing precipitation means where the tubular member is arranged in the precipitation bath from a top surface of the precipitation means to the draw means. Further there is no suggestion of any such structure.

Seifried et al has an open bottom heating tube for blowing hot air. This hardly suggests a closed bottom precipitation bath container for holding liquid precipitation means. The heating chambers 5a and 5b are hardly equivalent to a tube for guiding blown film and the walls of the chambers are not near the tube and certainly not contained within a precipitation bath as required by the present claims. 5a and 5b certainly do not extend from a top surface of precipitation means to draw means as required by the present claims.

The rejection must be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael L. Dunn
Registration No.25,330
CUSTOMER NO. 24041
Simpson & Simpson, PLLC
5555 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221-5406
Telephone No. 716-626-1564

MLD/mjk
Dated: April 11, 2005